

AUTOMOBILE SAFETY

How often do you use seat belts when you drive or ride in a car?

- In 1997, 58% of Montana adults reported that they always used seat belts and 23% (+/- 2%) indicated that they nearly always wore a seat belt.
- The percentage of adults reporting that they always used seat belts increased significantly from 46% (+/- 3%) in 1991 to 55% (+/- 3%) in 1993. However there has been essentially no change since 1993.
- Significantly more females (66%) reported always using seat belts than males (49%).
- There were significant differences in the percentages of adults who always used seat belts according to age class and level of education. The percentage of adults always using seat belts increased with increasing age class (highest among adults aged 65 and older) and with increasing education level (highest among adults with a college degree).

Do you support retaining Montana's mandatory seat belt law? (State-added question)

- In 1997 and 1998, 82% (+/- 2%) and 83% (+/- 2%), respectively, of Montana adults supported retaining the mandatory seat belt law.
- Support of mandatory seat belt use in Montana has increased significantly from 59% (+/- 3%) in 1988, the first year of the law, to 83% in 1998.

Drinking and driving:

- In the 1997 survey, 3% of adults indicated that they had driven when they "had perhaps too much to drink."
- There were no discernable differences in the prevalence of reported drinking and driving among sexes, education levels, income classes, or race classes.
- No adults aged 65 and older reported drinking and driving.
- Since 1990, the prevalence of reported drinking and driving among Montana adults has remained approximately the same.

Healthy People 2000 Objective:

9.12 Increase use of safety belts. . . to at least 85% of motor vehicle occupants.

Table 10. Automobile Safety, Montana Adults, 1997 (with 95% confidence intervals).

	Always uses a seat belt				Drinking and driving			
	Total No.	No.	%	CI (+/-)	Total No.	No.	%	CI (+/-)
All Adults: 1997	1802	732	58	(3)	1786	45	3	(0.8)
Sex:								
Male	760	380	49	(4)	748	35	4	(2)
Female	1042	352	66	(3)	1038	10	1	(1)
Age:								
18 - 29	297	149	50	(6)	294	16	5	(3)
30 - 44	578	258	54	(4)	575	18	3	(1)
45 - 64	537	201	60	(5)	531	11	2	(1)
65+	388	124	67	(5)	384	0	0	
Education:								
<High School	180	88	49	(9)	177	3	2	(2)
High School	575	256	52	(5)	568	13	2	(1)
Some College	543	215	60	(5)	542	18	4	(2)
College Degree	500	171	64	(5)	496	11	2	(1)
Income:								
<\$10,000	95	46	51	(11)	95	1	1	(2)
\$10,000 - \$19,999	273	118	55	(7)	270	9	4	(3)
\$20,000 - \$34,999	520	214	56	(5)	514	14	3	(1)
\$35,000 - \$49,999	298	124	58	(6)	297	12	4	(2)
\$50,000+	238	85	62	(7)	238	6	3	(2)
Race:								
White, non-Hispanic	1676	679	58	(3)	1660	44	3	(1)
Non-white or Hispanic	119	50	57	(11)	119	1	1	(2)

Figure 9. Montana Adults Who Always Use A Seatbelt, 1991-1997.

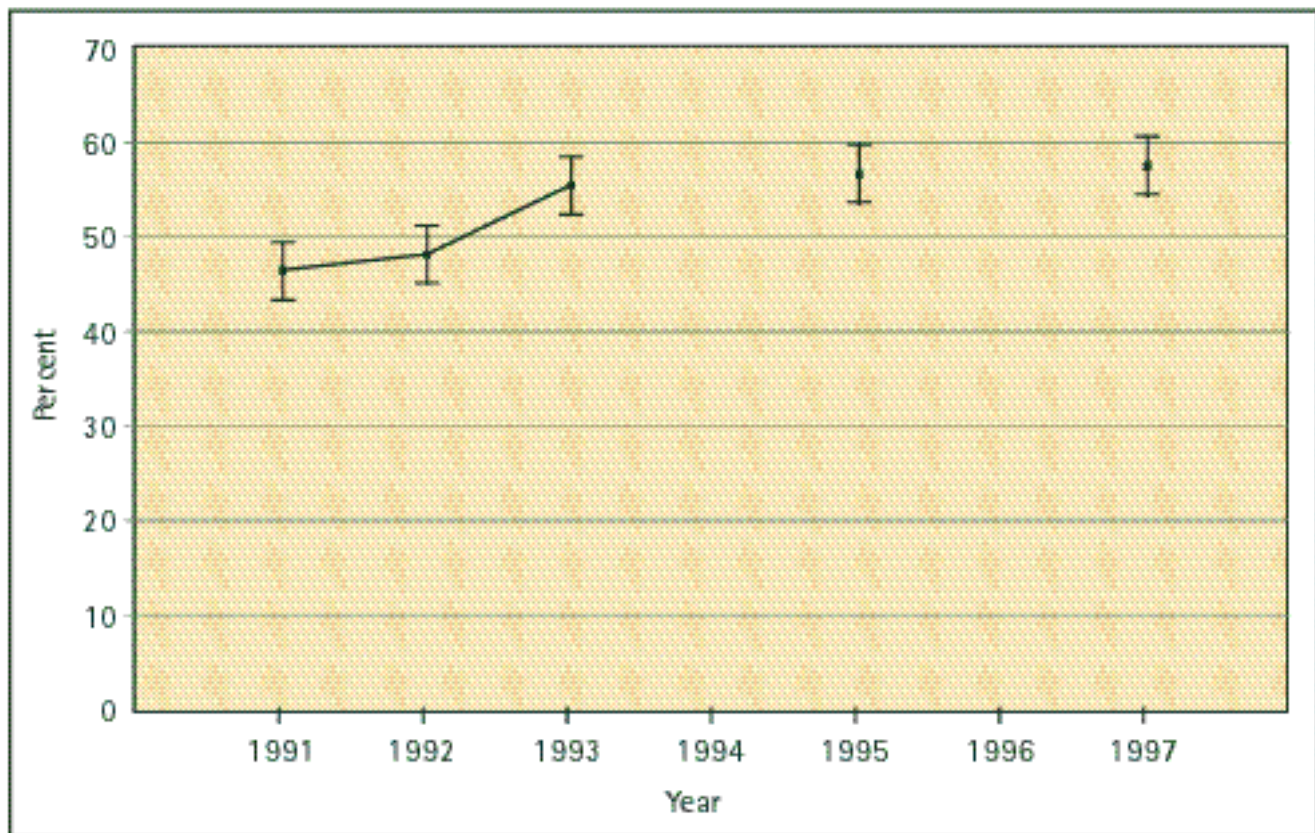


Figure 10. Drinking and Driving, Montana Adults, 1990-1997.

